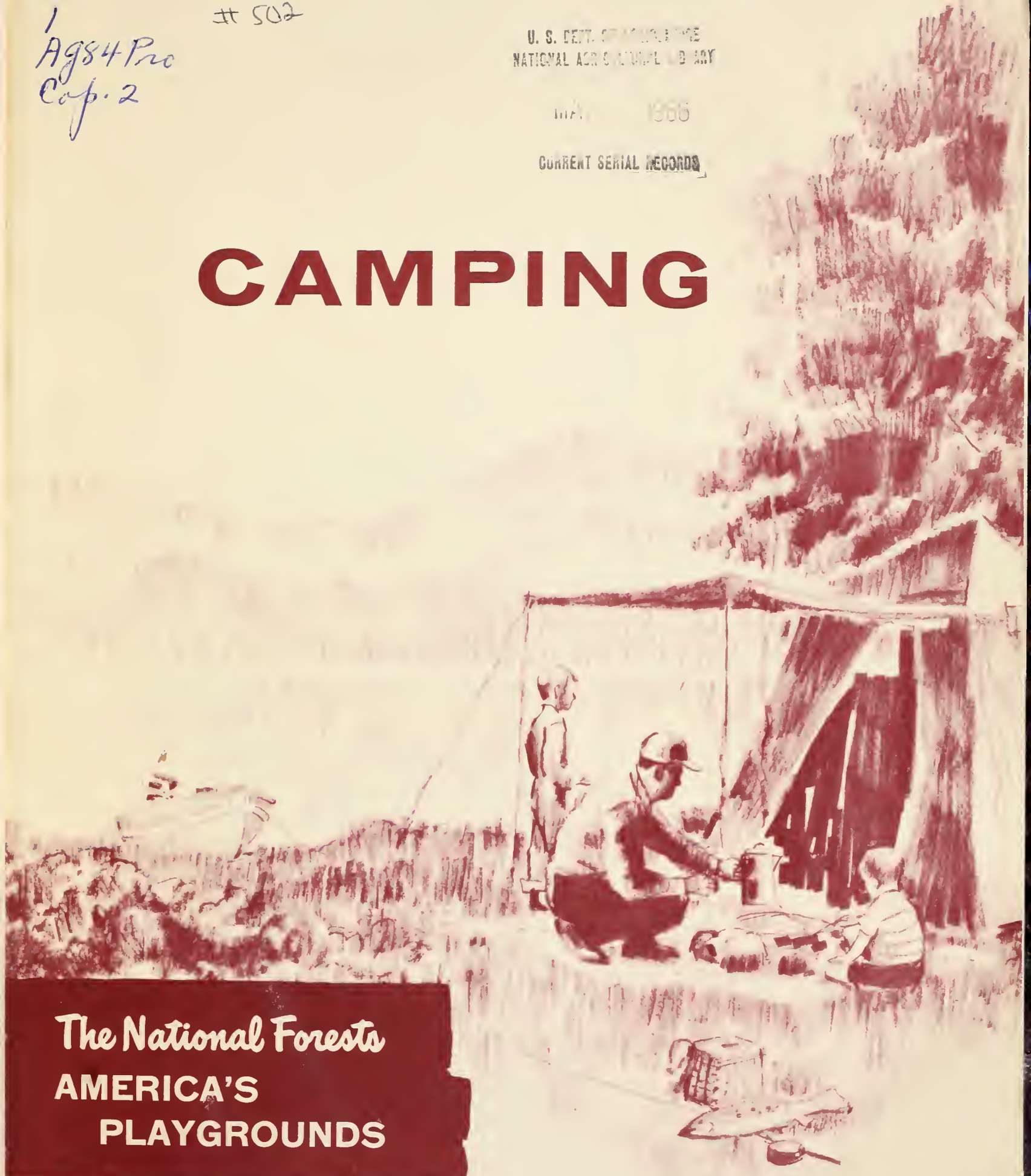
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CAMPING



The National Forests
AMERICA'S PLAYGROUNDS

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Forest Service • PA-502

brook trout and campfire coffee



The tempting aroma of campfire coffee mixed with wood smoke drifted through the open tent door. But Jean burrowed further in her sleeping bag and squeezed her eyes shut hard. She wasn't getting up yet; this was a special time she'd looked forward to for months.

The children were urging their father in excited whispers to start frying the fish. Jim had crawled out of his bag at dawn to get brook trout for this, their first breakfast in camp. It was a family tradition, Jim's making breakfast the first day. Jean would take over after this, but right now she was enjoying every minute of the unusual luxury.

It was good to know the youngsters liked camping. They should, of course. She had met Jim at a National Forest campground, and they'd vacationed in the forests ever since, taking the children even when they were babes in arms.

When the hot fat started to crackle in the frying pan, she knew it was time to open her eyes and let them know she was awake. Sure enough, the sun was edging over the eastern ridge, splashing its color across the top of Pine Mountain to the west. Brr . . . it was nippy! She could tell by the tip of her nose. She'd forgotten that in the mountains August nights are cold.

"How about a cup of coffee in bed?" she called.

"She's awake!" the youngsters shouted. "Now we can talk."

Bless them, they thought they'd been quiet all this time.

Thus one family started its camping vacation—one of millions of families that each year head for America's Playgrounds, the 154 National Forests and 19 National Grasslands administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

IS CAMPING REALLY FUN?

Every year more people are using and enjoying the National Forests and National Grasslands, 186 million acres of the Nation's magnificent outdoors. Visits to campgrounds now number more than 14 million a year (visits for all recreational purposes reach over 150 million). Since campers stay an average of 2¼ days, their visits total about 31¾ million camper-days annually.

Camping visits now exceed by more than 11 million those recorded the year after World War II and represent an unforeseen, almost unbelievable increase over the 1½ million in 1924, the first year the Forest Service counted camping visits to the National Forests.

Why do these millions find fun pitching camp and roughing it in the woods? Some of them hunt. The National Forests, home for one-third of the country's big-game animals, are the happy (unposted) hunting grounds of the Nation. Other campers enjoy some of the finest fishing in the country. National Forest fishing streams total 81,000 miles, and natural lakes and impounded waters cover nearly 3 million acres.





Campers also go hiking, swimming, boating, and horseback riding. They pick berries, collect rocks, and photograph wild flowers, the scenery, and one another. They do these things and many others, and find time in between for just plain sitting.

Obviously there's no simple explanation for the strong attraction Americans feel for the outdoors. Each person comes for reasons special to him, and possibly just to be in the open, living close to the land. Fortunately for a Nation of people strongly drawn to the outdoors, open space and forest recreation, even in this age of urban sprawl, are still readily available and easily reached. A look at a map shows that nearly every major highway in the Nation passes through one or more National Forests.

Good maps are useful to the camper in planning trips and are necessary when traveling unfamiliar roads. In addition to showing National Forests, many roadmaps distributed by service stations and State highway departments indicate locations of recreation areas in National Forests, and on private and other public lands. To obtain detailed recreation maps of National Forests before your trip, write to the Forest Service regional office administering the forests you wish to visit. Addresses are on the inside back cover of this booklet. And when you enter a forest, stop at the District Forest Ranger's station; he will be pleased to assist in making your visit an enjoyable and rewarding experience.



AN AMERICAN TRADITION

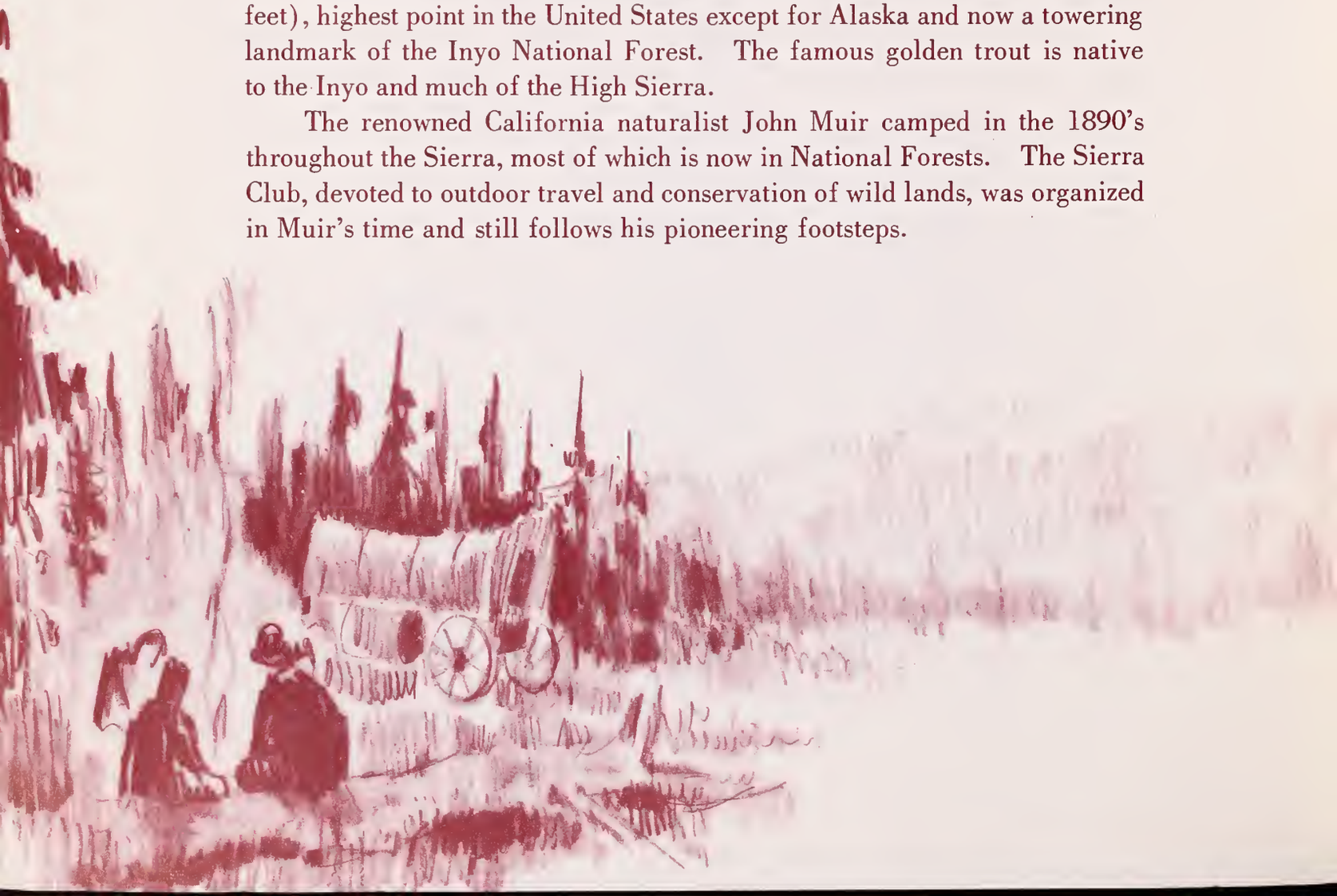
The use of forests for many purposes is traditional with a people for whom the outdoors has always been close at hand. Our forefathers hunted and fished forest lands and used forest trees for building. Often in their travels, though more from necessity than for fun, they camped deep in the woods.

In later years, but still long before the establishment of the National Forests, Americans were finding relaxation and challenge in camping, fishing, hunting, and otherwise exploring the Nation's back country. Near Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 24, 1856, the President of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young, held a "Pic-nic Party" in Big Cottonwood Canyon in what is now the Wasatch National Forest. Some 450 people traveled most of the previous day and camped overnight in the canyon so as to be on time for the party.

In the 1880's the Appalachian Mountain Club was laying out trails and camping all over New Hampshire's White Mountains and their rugged Presidential Range, now the White Mountain National Forest.

In California, fishermen were the first to climb Mount Whitney (14,496 feet), highest point in the United States except for Alaska and now a towering landmark of the Inyo National Forest. The famous golden trout is native to the Inyo and much of the High Sierra.

The renowned California naturalist John Muir camped in the 1890's throughout the Sierra, most of which is now in National Forests. The Sierra Club, devoted to outdoor travel and conservation of wild lands, was organized in Muir's time and still follows his pioneering footsteps.





Redfish Lake Outlet Campground, Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho.

In the Northwest, the mountain-climbing Mazamas were crossing glaciers and pitching camp on Mount Hood (11,245 feet, Oregon's highest) before the end of the century and the establishment of the Mount Hood National Forest.

Today the woods, streams, and mountains of the National Forests attract outdoor recreationists as strongly as in the days of Brigham Young. They still offer much of the best camping in the country, and by automobile they can be reached more quickly and easily than they could in the time of the horse and wagon and the "Pic-nic Party."

On these public lands, the Forest Service has provided nearly 52,000 overnight family units in 6,400 camp and picnic grounds, all in the most attractive surroundings available. Although no two campgrounds are identical, you can expect certain basic things at most of them. Privacy is one. Campgrounds are blended into the landscape to preserve the forest atmosphere, and shrubs and trees serve to screen camping units. In most campgrounds, each camping unit has a place to park, a cleared spot for a tent, a firegrate, and table and benches. Several units share trash cans, drinking water, and latrine. Not all sites for trailer camping have both a table and a fireplace, and some campgrounds in the back country are rather primitive and may not have tables.

In many National Forests, picnic areas are located near or adjacent to campgrounds. Picnic units contain a table, benches, and firegrate. Parking, water, and latrines are centrally located. Some picnic areas also have family camping units.

Forest campgrounds grow more popular each year with experienced as well as amateur campers, and to all the Forest Service says, "Welcome to the National Forests—yours to enjoy, protect, keep clean!" This is the Forest Service's way of asking the cooperation of the one visitor in a thousand who might misuse or damage tables, signs, or other structures. Dollars saved by lowering repair and replacement costs can be used to build new recreation areas and to improve others to accommodate the increasing numbers of Americans using the forests.

If you've never camped, join those thousands who this year will camp in the woods for the first time. Get the advice of an experienced woodsman, or study camping magazines and books. Then plan a simple trip—don't be too ambitious your first time out—and head for the woods. Campers are friendly and are glad to share their woods lore. You'll learn a lot, and before your trip ends you'll be writing home, "Having a wonderful time!"

Juniper Creek, Juniper Springs Recreation Area, Ocala National Forest, Florida.





BACKPACKING INTO BACK COUNTRY

Many experienced campers prefer to throw a pack on their backs and head into back country—the wilder parts of the National Forests. There they seek the pioneer spirit of their forefathers by fending for themselves, whether traveling a little-used trail only a half a mile from a road, or plunging into a 100,000-acre wilderness.

Hikers explore old trails and beat their way across country, making camp where day ends. Horse riders travel wilderness trails, sleep beneath the stars, and return to civilization refreshed. Fishermen trek to remote streams and high-country lakes, and hunters search the hills for next winter's venison and bear steaks. Families, too, enjoy the away-from-it-all experience of primitive travel and deep-woods camping.

To assist back-country campers, the Forest Service has blazed miles of trails, and provided primitive campsites—a few with three-sided shelters and firepits. Campers needn't use them, but they do simplify making camp.

The supreme camping experience for many people—including families—is a wilderness trip. In the National Forests are 88 separate wilderness areas totaling 14.6 million acres, an area nearly the size of West Virginia. The initial 9.1 million acres of the National Wilderness Preservation System created by Congress in 1964 are in 54 of these National Forest Wildernesses. The remaining 34 areas, covering 5.5 million acres, are being studied for possible inclusion in the wilderness system.

In 1924 the Forest Service pioneered in wilderness preservation by setting aside the Nation's first wilderness. National Forest wilderness, mostly high mountain country, is managed to maintain its natural, wild state. No roads cross the wilderness and no vehicles are permitted. Trails are few, and these only for horse riders and hikers. Some of the more popular wildernesses, where necessary to assure sanitation and safety, have a few designated campsites with primitive facilities.

Back-country camping in remote parts of a forest or deep in a great wilderness requires careful planning and proper equipment. Before heading into the wilds, study a detailed map of the area and learn the terrain. Plan menus and select equipment carefully to keep loads light for horses and backpackers. For safety's sake, carry a first-aid kit to meet emergencies, and a map and compass to keep you on trail.

One of the delights of camping is the campfire. It sheds a friendly glow when shadows deepen into night, provides a warming crackle in the cold light of morning, dries clothes, and cooks food. But fire uncontrolled can be a demon.

Wilderness campers are generally careful with fire. Their secret is to clear a spot down to mineral earth and build a ring of rocks to contain the fire. Then they keep the fire small and, when through, drench it with water and stir the ashes into the earth. The Forest Ranger appreciates this care, and so do the campers who follow.

BEFORE YOU ASK

The information below answers some of the questions most frequently asked about camping in the National Forests. For more detailed information than is supplied here and elsewhere in this booklet, write to the appropriate Regional Forester as listed on the inside back cover.

Camping season: Usually runs from May 30 through Labor Day weekend, but in milder climates some campgrounds have a longer season and others are open year-round. Except where weather is too severe, campgrounds may be used at any time, but after the regular season water is turned off, flush toilets are locked, and garbage is not collected.

Reservations: None are required. Campsites are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so come early if you're heading for one of the more popular campgrounds.

Length of stay: As long as you wish at many campgrounds, but at some of the more popular areas visits are limited to 2 weeks.

Equipment: Bring your own tent, sleeping and cooking equipment, and plenty of food—fresh air builds the appetite.

Trailers: Small trailers may be used where designated parking space is large enough for car and trailer, but water, electrical, and sewage connections are not provided, and waste water is not permitted to drain on the ground. Some forests, however, offer separate trailer accommodations and provide these facilities, and there are also some commercially operated trailer camps in the forests.



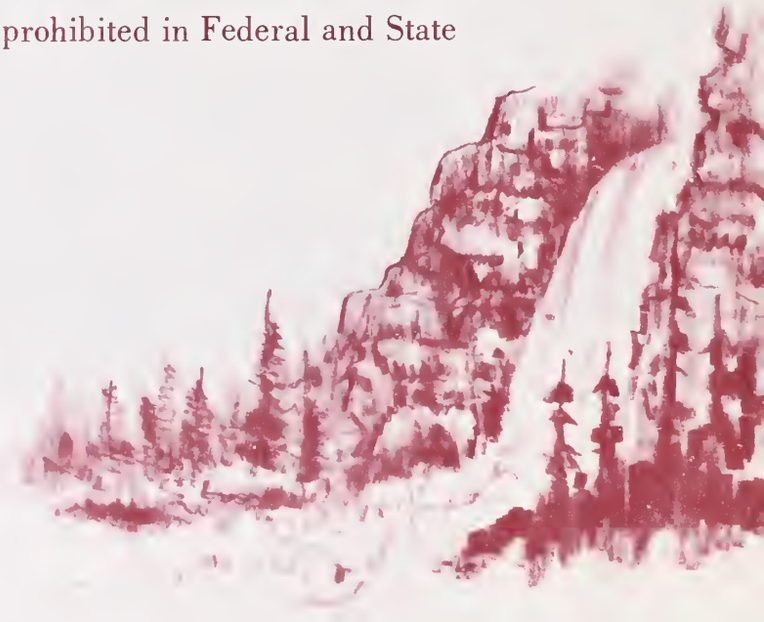
Campfires and cooking: Fires may be built at campgrounds and other designated sites without a permit except in California. Before entering back country or wilderness areas, check with Forest Rangers for permit requirements. Cut fuelwood is available at some campgrounds; at others you gather your own. You are not allowed, of course, to cut standing timber, bushes, or other vegetation. For quick meals, bring along a gasoline stove.

Water: Most campgrounds have safe drinking water. Hot water and laundry facilities are available only when supplied by concessionaires.

Supplies: Fresh milk, ice, and other provisions can be obtained in nearby towns and sometimes from concessionaires.

Pets: You may bring pets, but you are asked to keep them under control. Pets are subject to State laws, and some States require that dogs be kept on leash in established camp and picnic grounds.

Firearms: May be carried in the forest and fired where safe and in compliance with State laws; they are specifically prohibited in Federal and State game refuges within the National Forests.



PLAYGROUNDS AND NATURAL WONDERS

It would take a lifetime of year-round camping—about 95 years if you spent a week at each campground—to visit all the National Forests and enjoy their unmatched variety of scenery, natural wonders, historic sites, and recreation opportunities.

But it would be worth a try. There's so much to see and enjoy.

You can camp in the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina near the Linville Gorge Wilderness, a canyon of wildness and beauty, with a 90-foot





Left: Stanley Lake and McGowan Peak, Challis National Forest, Idaho. Right: South Fork of the Flathead River, Flathead National Forest, Montana.

waterfall that was visited, legend says, by Hernando De Soto in 1539. From the canyon rim, the famous Brown Mountain lights are often seen on clear, dark nights. As if from a giant Roman candle, the lights float upward, glowing brightly, fading and disappearing, and often reappearing to glow again.

Mountain climbing? Try Signal Knob in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia, where flashing lights relayed Civil War messages to Confederate troops threatening the Nation's Capital.

Visit the cabin in Oak Creek Canyon in the Coconino National Forest in Arizona, where Zane Grey lived when he wrote "Call of the Canyon," and see the colorful sunsets and red-rock cliffs he made famous (spectacular scenery used in many Hollywood movies).

Pan for gold at German Gulch in the Deerlodge National Forest in Montana, where once a thousand prospectors staked claims . . . explore dozens of ghost towns within National Forests throughout the West . . . pick wild huckleberries in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington.

Stop by the Forest Service's Voyageur Visitor Center at Ely, Minn., and then explore the water routes of the Voyageurs, the French-Canadian fur traders of the 1700's, through the wilderness of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the Superior National Forest.

Follow the route of Lewis and Clark over the Lolo Trail across the Bitterroot Mountains in the Lolo and Clearwater National Forests in Montana and Idaho. Campsites and other historic points along their route are marked by interpretive signs . . . also along the Lolo Trail; walk in the footsteps of the Nez Perce Indians whose trails across the mountains are still visible.

Hike the Appalachian Trail. It crosses eight National Forests in 2,000 miles from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. In the West, try the Pacific Crest Trail System. It winds through National Forests from Canada to Mexico, along the snow-mantled skyline of the Northern Cascades in Washington and Oregon and down the John Muir Trail in the High Sierra.

In Colorado, drive through clouds to the crest of Pikes Peak in the Pike National Forest via one of the world's highest auto roads . . . in New Mexico, look at a panorama of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley from Sandia Crest Vista Point in the Cibola National Forest.

Along the Columbia River gorge near Portland, Oreg., Multnomah Falls, second highest in the Nation, plunges down a cliffside in the Mount Hood National Forest. For contrast, look into mile-deep Hells Canyon, deepest gorge on the North American Continent, where the Snake River flows through the Payette, Nezperce, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests of Idaho and Oregon. The canyon at one point is 7,900 feet deep and 10 miles wide from rim to rim.

In the Cranberry Glades of the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, wild cranberries and many types of wild orchids grow in the arctic-like tundra. You can jump up and down on the spongy bog and shake a person 150 feet away.

Near Sheep Creek Canyon and Flaming Gorge in the Ashley National Forest in Utah there are exposed geologic formations that are estimated to be 1 billion years old. Red Canyon Visitor Center, on the edge of the gorge, provides a spectacular view.

Other Forest Service visitor centers include Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, Tongass National Forest, Alaska; Missoula Visitor Center, Missoula, Mont.; Redfish Lake Visitor Center, Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho; Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, Coronado National Forest, Ariz.; and the Cradle of Forestry in America, Pisgah National Forest, N.C.

In Montana, hike to Grasshopper Glacier in the Custer National Forest where thousands of grasshoppers were entombed some 200 years ago. And in Kentucky, explore natural arches in the Cumberland National Forest. One arch is 60 feet high and 100 feet long.

The largest bird in North America, the condor, is protected in the Sespe Wildlife Area of Los Padres National Forest in California, and some of the very rare trumpeter swans live in the Copper River Delta of the Chugach National Forest in Alaska.

In the Inyo National Forest in California grow ancient bristlecone pines, the oldest known living things on earth. Methuselah, the oldest tree yet found, is older than 4,600 years. Also within the Inyo are fossil graptolites, remains of sea animals that lived about 400 million years ago when the sea covered the area.

These are a sampling of outstanding attractions in National Forests which you may see and enjoy while camping nearby. You may not be able to visit all the forests, but a few days in any one you choose will be a vacation not soon forgotten—and probably soon repeated.

North Fork of the Flathead River, Flathead National Forest, Montana.



FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Visits to State and Federal recreation areas have increased tenfold and more in the past 25 years because of the country's growing population, more leisure time, higher incomes, urbanization, and greater mobility. By the year 2000 the population is expected to double, and the demand for recreation is expected to triple.

To help meet your recreation needs in the future, the Congress created a pay-as-you-go financing program by passing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. The act provides for the collection of entrance and special user fees at designated charge areas on Federal lands. The fees will be used, as appropriated from the fund by Congress, to provide additional Federal recreation lands, and to assist the States in planning, acquiring, and developing outdoor recreation areas.

Under this act the Forest Service has designated as charge areas a number of National Forest recreation sites, including most developed campgrounds. There are no charges for driving through the forests, for hiking or riding the trails, for using the lakes and streams, or for hunting and fishing—but don't forget to buy a State hunting or fishing license.

Entrance fees to designated National Forest charge areas are required of all persons 16 years of age or older. In addition to entrance fees, special user fees are charged at a few recreation areas where facilities or services such as hot water, electricity, firewood, boat ramps, and bathhouses are provided by the Forest Service. Entrance fees and service charges are nominal.

Special user fees are paid as services are used. Entrance fees, if the National Forest visitor wishes, may be paid as he goes; that is, he may pay the entrance fee for a particular area at a ranger's or supervisor's office, or to field personnel on duty at the area. But the real bargain for the National Forest visitor, and the most convenient way to pay entrance fees, is the new Federal Recreation Area Entrance Permit. Indicative of the permit's value is its gold color.

This permit, costing a nominal $7, is good for a 12-month period beginning April 1 of each year. It admits the holder and all passengers in his private noncommercial vehicle to all designated National Forest charge areas, as well as to all National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, reservoirs, and other Federal recreation areas where entrance fees are charged under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The permit is also good for entrance to these areas, for the holder only, regardless of his mode of transportation.

The permit cannot be used for admission, however, at a small number of recreation areas in the National Forests that are not included under the act. These areas are operated under Forest Service permit by concessionaires who levy and collect their own charges for the use of facilities and services that they provide.

For complete current information on the cost of the permit and its purchase, and for a list of National Forest designated charge areas and fee schedules, write to the Regional Forester administering the area you plan to visit. Addresses are listed on the inside back cover of this booklet.

The permit may be purchased in person or by mail from Forest Service offices throughout the country, including rangers' and supervisors' offices and regional offices. It is also sold at Forest Service visitor centers and at charge areas where someone is on duty. In Washington, D.C., it may be bought from a Forest Service office, 206 Liberty Loan Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 20250. When ordering by mail, make check or money order payable in the exact amount to the Treasurer of the United States—and make sure your return address is correct.

In general, the permit is sold at all areas where it can be used for entrance, at offices of the American Automobile Association, at regional and headquarters offices of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and at most field and headquarters offices of Federal agencies administering recreation areas.

To sum up, entrance and special user fees are nominal and, for value received, the Federal Recreation Area Entrance Permit is a bargain: it is a golden passport to the American outdoors. Small as they are, the charges authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act will be of substantial help in paying for the additional space and facilities that future generations will need for outdoor recreation.

OPERATION GOLDEN EAGLE



This soaring eagle connotes the outdoors; the silhouetted family symbolizes an expanding population. They are part of a nationwide program—Operation Golden Eagle—to encourage Americans to help make more lands and waters available for outdoor recreation. They appear, the eagle in gold, on materials promoting the sale of the gold-colored Federal Recreation Area Entrance Permit.



Near South Holston reservoir, Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee.

THE WISE USE OF FOREST RESOURCES

The campground you enjoy is but a little part of a Ranger District, which may vary in size from 50,000 to 500,000 acres. Its manager is a District Forest Ranger who has a college degree in forestry or related fields and long experience as an assistant ranger. His job is the management, development, and use on his district of renewable forest resources: water, timber, wildlife, forage, and recreation.

It is a complex job of land management, and requires him to be administrator, planner, salesman, technician. He sells timber when it is ready for harvest and insures that young trees replace those harvested. He protects the land from erosion and puts good watershed management into effect; water flowing from National Forests is their most precious resource. He makes sure that ranges are not overgrazed by big-game animals or by sheep and cattle.

The Forest Ranger improves the wildlife habitat and cooperates with State fish and game departments to provide better fishing and hunting. He watches for the first sign of the forest's most feared enemies: disease, insects, and fire, and he counters their attack quickly and efficiently. He develops recreation areas, and visits campers, hiking clubs, trail riders, skiers, and other groups making use of his district to get their suggestions for improvement. Somehow he finds time to talk to school children and to professional and civic organizations, for conservation—wise use of natural resources—is the concern of all.

These are only highlights of a Forest Ranger's responsibilities to the American people. He is their appointed steward and is accountable to them. But he is equally accountable to Americans of the future, for the forest lands that exist today must serve even more people in the years ahead.

The ranger's most important obligation, then, is clear. He must intensify management and development so that each resource—water, timber, wildlife, forage, recreation—will produce forest products and services at as high a level of supply as can be sustained without harming the land's ability to produce, now and in the future.

This is the Forest Service's policy of managing forest land for multiple use and sustained yield. It has proved to be good conservation. It is the means by which the Forest Service, the National Forests, and the on-the-ground land manager, the District Ranger, will continue to provide greater services to a growing Nation through the wise use of forest resources.



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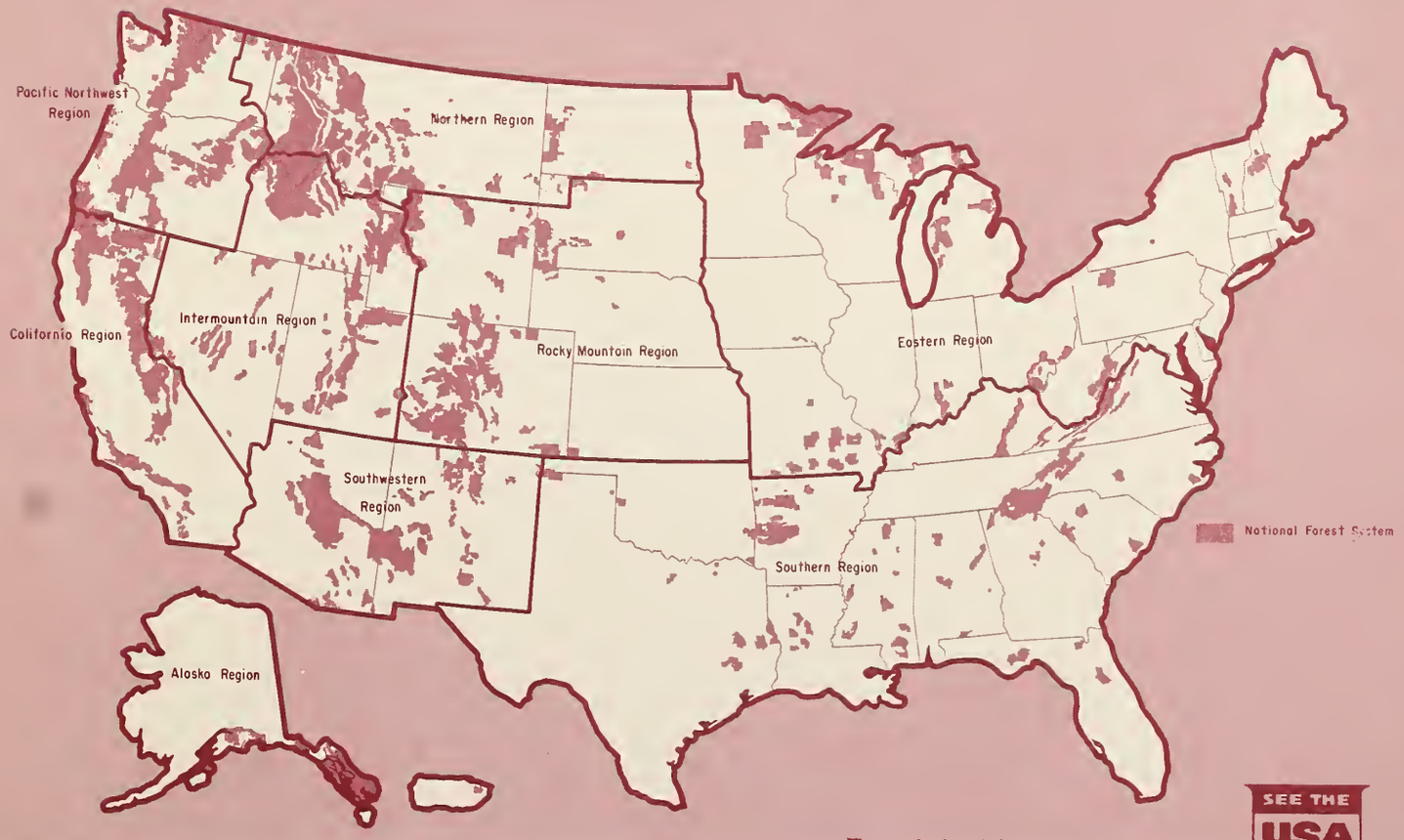
INFORMATION

For detailed information on visiting National Forests and National Grasslands, see the map below for the name of the Forest Service region you are interested in, and address your query to Regional Forester, Forest Service:

Alaska Region	Post Office Box 1631 Juneau, Alaska 99801
Pacific Northwest Region	Post Office Box 3623 Portland, Oreg. 97208
California Region	630 Sansome Street San Francisco, Calif. 94111
Northern Region	Federal Building Missoula, Mont. 59801
Intermountain Region	324 25th Street Ogden, Utah 84401
Rocky Mountain Region	Federal Center, Bldg. 85 Denver, Colo. 80225
Southwestern Region	517 Gold Avenue SW. Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87101
Eastern Region	710 North Sixth Street Milwaukee, Wis. 53203
Southern Region	50 Seventh Street NE. Atlanta, Ga. 30323

This booklet is one of a series on the many uses and benefits of the water, timber, wildlife, forage, and recreation resources of the National Forest System. Others are *Wilderness, Skiing, Timber, Backpacking in the National Forest Wilderness, Trees of the Forest,* the *National Grasslands Story,* and *National Forest Vacations.*

Revised March 1966



Travel the National Forests

SEE THE USA

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives—as directed by Congress—to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

